

Chief, Economic Research

17 December 1956

Chief, Materials Division

Comments on Course Outline

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1. The following comments are submitted in response to your request.
2. I would suggest starting this course off with a discussion of what research is and what it attempts to do. I would emphasize in this connection that we are not merely compilers, but that we are paid to determine the meaning and significance of the material being researched.
3. I would recommend placing a considerable amount of emphasis on the section entitled, "Converting the assignment into a research problem." A failure at this stage is very highly cumulative.
4. I assume that section IV of the outline covering research facilities and services would include actual tours to the installations mentioned.
5. I suspect that section VI is going to be very difficult to teach, except by the rich use of examples and perhaps only by the case study approach.
6. I would suggest the complete elimination of section VII entitled, "Interpretation, forecasting, and prediction." It seems to me that a 40-hour course bites off more than it can chew in attempting to cover these topics. The treatment would have to be terribly superficial and might do a good deal more harm than good.

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Distribution:

001 - Ch/E
2 - B/M
1 - Chrono

D/M/RR: [REDACTED] :tkp/3011 (14 Dec 56)

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